

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 73. New claims 74 and 75 are inserted and claims 60-72 are dependent upon new claim 74 or a claim that is dependent upon claim 74.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. – 59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~73~~ 74 wherein the illumination pattern is multi-colored.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the multi-colored illumination pattern is produced by a single LED.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~73~~ 74 wherein at least two stages have ~~multi-colored~~ colored LEDs that are triggered to provide a multi-colored illumination pattern.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~73~~ 74 further comprising a second event and a second illumination pattern and upon occurrence of the second event, triggering the LEDs of at least one stage to provide the second illumination pattern.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising the step of:

triggering the LEDs of a first stage upon occurrence of the first event and triggering the LEDs of a second stage upon occurrence of the second event.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising the steps of:

programming an operation sequence including the first and second events; and

triggering the operation sequence in order to display the first illumination pattern upon occurrence of the first event and the second illumination pattern upon occurrence of the second event.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 73 74 further comprising the steps of:

programming the processor to trigger a single color illumination upon the occurrence of a second event; and

triggering the LEDs of at least one stage to provide the single color illumination.

67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 73 74 wherein the triggering occurs automatically upon occurrence of the first event.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 73 74 wherein the LEDs include at least one of a red, yellow or green colored LED.

69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 73 74 further comprising the steps of:

controlling the processor via a network or computer system that is coupled to multiple gaming machines.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 73 74 wherein the first event includes one of a jackpot, bonus round, currency needed or special player present situation.

71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 73-74 further comprising the steps of:

coordinating the processor with the gaming machine play functions in order to sense the first event;

signaling an I/O interface;
signaling a coding buffer system;
signaling a pulse width modulator; and
controlling a current driver in order to control the LEDs according to the multi-colored illumination pattern.

72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 73 74 wherein a user input panel is provided by the gaming machine and the method further comprising the steps of:

selecting the illumination pattern via the user input panel; and
selecting the first event to trigger the illumination pattern, via the user input panel.

73. (Canceled).

74. (New) A method of operating a gaming machine, which comprises:
providing a processor to control selected machine operations;
providing a candle carried by the gaming machine and having at least a first stage;

providing a plurality of first colored LEDs within said first stage;
mounting the candle to a gaming machine;
programming the processor to operate one or more of the colored LEDs within said stage to provide a selected color illumination pattern upon occurrence of a selected event of the gaming machine;

connecting the processor to the candle to enable the processor to trigger one or more of the colored LEDs within said stage to provide a selected color illumination pattern upon occurrence of said selected event;

whereby triggering one or more of the colored LEDs within said stage provides color change of the candle stage, without requiring the use or removal or insertion of a colored plastic insert within the candle stage.

75. (New) A method of operating a gaming machine, which comprises:

- providing a processor to control selected machine operations;
- providing a candle carried by the gaming machine and having at least a first stage and a second stage;
- providing a plurality of first colored LEDs within said first stage;
- providing a plurality of second colored LEDs within said second stage;
- mounting the candle to a gaming machine;
- programming the processor to operate one or more of the colored LEDs within at least one said stage to provide a selected color illumination pattern upon occurrence of a selected event of the gaming machine;
- connecting the processor to the candle to enable the processor to trigger one or more of the colored LEDs within at least one said stage to provide a selected color illumination pattern upon occurrence of said selected event;
- whereby triggering one or more of the colored LEDs within said at least one stage provides color change of the candle stage, without requiring the use or removal or insertion of a colored plastic insert within the candle stage.